

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A data acquisition system comprising:
a memory;
a processor coupled to the memory; and
a first communication port adapted for coupling to a vessel navigation system; and
a switch, when actuated in response to an event, causes information retrieved from the vessel navigation system to be stored in memory and be associated with data that includes by-catch information.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The data acquisition system of claim 2 further comprising a display, wherein the display displays at least one entry line having at least a date and a position associated with the event.
4. (Original) The data acquisition system of claim 1 further comprises at least one of a sounder, a radar or a chart plotter.
5. (Original) The data acquisition system of claim 1 further comprising:
an enclosure housing the memory and processor; and
a second communication port coupled to the enclosure configured to communicate with a device remote from the enclosure.
6. (Original) The data acquisition system of claim 5, wherein the second communication port is configured to transfer information at least one of optical communication, wireless communication, via a modem or via a land-line.

7. (Original) The data acquisition system of claim 6, wherein the first communication port is coupled to a network comprising the vessel navigation system includes at least one of a sounder, a chart plotter, a radar and a digital bearing indicator.

8. (Currently Amended) The data acquisition system of claim 1 further comprising:

~~a remote device selectively in communication with the memory through the second communication port~~ instructions, when executed by the processor, causes the system to:

analyze data stored in the memory to determine areas or techniques to avoid to maximize harvest of a targeted species while avoiding by-catch.

9. (Currently Amended) The data acquisition system of ~~claim 8~~ claim 1, a remote device selectively in communication with the memory through the second communication port wherein the remote device is at least one of a PDA, laptop or computer.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for acquiring fishing data, comprising:

generating a signal in response to an event; and

automatically storing date and vessel position in a memory disposed on board a vessel in response to the signal; and

associating the date and vessel position with by-catch information relating to the event.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of generating the signal further comprising manually actuating a switch.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
storing information from a vessel navigation system in the memory in response to the signal.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of storing information further comprises storing at least one of water temperature, heading, speed and depth.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
manually entering ~~a information~~ information associated with the event.
16. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
transferring the stored information to a remote device.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of transferring further comprises establishing optical, wireless or land-line communication between the remote device and the memory on board the vessel.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising building a database of information associated with events; and
performing statistical analysis on the event information stored in the database.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising ~~displaying a selected event from the database~~ identifying factors that increase harvest of a target species relative to the by-catch from information stored in the memory.

21. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein analyzing the data further comprises:

analyzing multi-variable effects to reduce by-catch.

22. (New) A method for acquiring fishing data, comprising:

storing vessel position, target species catch and by-catch information in a memory disposed on board a vessel to build a historical database; and

determining, from the historical database, areas or techniques that relate to harvest of a targeted species relative to by-catch.

23. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein determining further comprises:

analyzing multi-variable effects to reduce by-catch.